St. Aidan's Chorus

PRESENTS

THE MIKADO

OR

The Town of Titipu

BY

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

St. Aidan's Parish House

CHELTENHAM PA.

TWENTY YEARS OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN
at
SAINT AIDAN'S

In 1929, the world reeled under the shock of the Great Crash; thereafter many people turned from high-priced Broadway shows to more intimate and congenial, if less polished, amateur productions. At St. Aidan's such musical plays were presented under the auspices of the Periodical Club. In 1932, the Club's musical director, Elsie Tucker, decided to cast the lot of the group with Gilbert & Sullivan. The merit of her decision is demonstrated by this 1951 "Mikado", our twentieth annual Gilbert & Sullivan production.

June 1st, 1932 may not have seemed historic to the audience enjoying "Trial by Jury" buffoonery in the same St. Aidan's Parish House which accommodates our 1951 audience, but a score of years since the first performance has proved the fact. The title of the first operetta, on the one-page mimeographed program, was preceded by the words "St. Aidan's Periodical Club presents". On the cover of the printed program for the 1933 fall performances, we read, "St. Aidan's Chorus presents H.M.S. Pinafore". And, St. Aidan's Chorus it has been—and nine delightful Gilbert & Sullivan operettas have been given and repeated, as shown on the tabulation elsewhere in this program, for a total of 116 performances (including all scheduled for 1951). Elsie Tucker has guided and produced every one of these performances, by creative industry prior to her death in April of 1950, and by influence and inspiration thereafter.

The home season, at St. Aidan's, has grown over the years from two nights to five. In addition, the Chorus has been invited to give tour shows following the home stand. The first such request performance was given on June 15, 1932 at Presentation Church in Cheltenham; in the succeeding years we have ranged all over Philadelphia and its suburbs. This year, after the November 7th performance, the set will be struck for removal to Logan, where the first vocal visit is scheduled for November 10th, followed by others to Southampton, Oak Lane and Collingswood, N. J.

Hundreds of singers and instrumentalists have entertained thousands of Gilbert & Sullivan fans over the years, as indicated by the following totals of St. Aidan's Chorus personnel from 1932 to now:

Singers	244
Orchestra	53
Staff	12
TOTAL	309

This Chorus has been consistently nurtured in the style and methods of the official D'Oyly Carte Company and has suitably mounted its productions with regard to scenery, costumes, and orchestra during the first twenty years. It is the intention of the present management to ensure continued and increasing emphasis on these principles through the second twenty years and thereafter.

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by
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

FRIDAY EVENINGS
October 26th and November 2nd
SATURDAY EVENINGS
October 27th and November 3rd
WEDNESDAY EVENING
November 7th
at 8:15 P.M.
1951

The Story

ACT 1—COURT-YARD OF KO-KO'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE

Nanki-Poo, a wandering minstrel, enters in search of Yum-Yum, only to learn that she is betrothed to Ko-Ko, a cheap tailor. Under sentence of death for flirting, Ko-Ko has been reprieved and raised to the post of Lord High Executioner, which is the highest rank a citizen can obtain. Yum-Yum and her two girl companions, Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo, return from school and preparations for the wedding of Yum-Yum and Ko-Ko go forward. Suddenly a letter arrives from the Mikado declaring that unless someone is beheaded within a month the post of Lord High Executioner will be abolished and the city reduced to the rank of a village. Ko-Ko seeks counsel of Poo-Bah and Pish-Tush in this dilemma but they point out that as he is already under sentence of death for flirting he seems to be the logical victim. In search of a substitute Ko-Ko encounters Nanki-Poo who is about to hang himself in despair at the thought of Yum-Yum marrying another. Ko-Ko proposes that Nanki wait a month and then be beheaded at the hands of the Public Executioner, and the latter consents on condition that he be permitted to marry Yum-Yum in the meantime. Now, Nanki-Poo is really the son of the Mikado who has fled from his father's court to escape the attentions of Katisha, an elderly and unattractive member of the court circle. As the chorus hails the approaching marriage of Yum-Yum and Nanki-Poo, Katisha enters in search of Nanki, but her efforts to denounce him are frustrated by the shouts of the crowd, and the curtain falls on a scene of mixed emotions.

ACT 2—SAME SCENE

Yum-Yum is preparing for her wedding to Nanki-Poo, but her joy is tempered by the remarks of her attendants who remind her that her husband is to be beheaded in a month. Nanki-Poo enters followed by Ko-Ko, who brings the dreadful information that when a man is beheaded the Mikado's law provides that his wife be buried alive. Of course there can be no marriage under such circumstances. However, the approach of the Mikado, announced by Poo-Bah, drives Ko-Ko to desperation because the necessary execution has not taken place. Willing to make any sacrifice to save his high position, Ko-Ko determines to stave off the Mikado with a tale of the execution of Nanki-Poo supported by Poo-Bah, who is to vouch for the truth of Ko-Ko's story. In order to carry out this deception Nanki-Poo is to disappear and never come back. He is even to be permitted to marry Yum-Yum and take her with him in order to ensure the carrying out of the plot. The Mikado enters and is told that an execution has taken place. All would be well were it not for the fact that Katisha discovers the name of Nanki-Poo on the fake certificate. When the Mikado learns that the supposed victim is his son, Ko-Ko and his companions are in a very awkward position. Efforts to induce Nanki-Poo to reappear are unsuccessful until Ko-Ko, very reluctantly, pays court to Katisha and persuades her to marry him. Even after the marriage her pleas for mercy are unavailing until Nanki-Poo and Yum-Yum turn up at the critical moment and all ends happily.

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THE MIKADO

CAST OF CHARACTERS

	Oct. 26 and 27 Nov. 7	Nov. 2 and 3
THE MIKADO OF JAPAN	Edwin Kroeker	John MacMillan
NANKI-POO (Son of the Mikado, disguised as a wandering minstrel)	William Craig	Howell Zulick
KO-KO (Lord High Executioner of Titipu)	Harold Goodwin, Jr.	William Lipp
POOH-BAH (Lord High Everything Else)	John Greenwood	Bill Lewis
PISH-TUSH (A Noble Lord)	Charles W. Brown	Andrew Ferguson
YUM-YUM (Three Sisters—)	Evelyn Carnahan Helen Tiller*	Ann Karnow
PITTI-SING (Wards of Ko-Ko)	Ernestine Breyer	Trudi Ricciuti
PEEP-BO (Wards of Ko-Ko)	Karola Bohmuller	Dodie Michael, Jr.
KATISHA (An Elderly Lady, in love with Nanki-Poo)	Irma Lewis	Margaret Lipp

*Oct. 27th only

CHORUS OF SCHOOL GIRLS, NOBLES, GUARDS AND COOLIES

Margaret Beavers
Karola Bohmuller
Ernestine Breyer
Cathie Bronson
Walter Bronson
Charles Brown
Evelyn Carnahan
Albert E. Clark
Nancy Ellis
Andrew Ferguson
Harold Goodwin
Harold Goodwin, Jr.
John Greenwood
Thomas S. Hiers
Rosemary Kelly
Edith Kroeker
Edwin Kroeker
Bette Lewis
Bill Lewis
Alberta MacMillan
Florence MacMillan
John MacMillan
Dodie Michael, Sr.
Dodie Michael, Jr.
Trudi Ricciuti
Robert Shaw
Caroline Snyder
Imogene Snyder
Doris Somerville
Ian Somerville
Norman V. Tempest
Helen Tiller
Joan Tiller
Florence Toothill
Frederick Toothill, Jr.
Samuel Tucker III
Bill West

STAGE DIRECTOR—Samuel Tucker
MUSICAL DIRECTOR—Samuel Tucker, Jr.
WARDROBE—Margaretta Goodwin, Marjorie Tucker
COSTUMES by Imogene Tempest and Alice Miller
With the help of members and friends of the chorus
PROPERTIES by Ralph Snyder
SCENERY by Casimir Geibel and Walter Shorday
PROGRAM COVER by Ann Karnow

ORCHESTRA

Warren Bartz
Frank P. Bye, Jr.
Winifred G. Coe
Robert Hill
Robert Hudack
Wallace King
Marguerite Kroekel
Ralph Labiosa, Jr.
Henry W. Seher

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TWENTY YEARS OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN PERFORMANCES

Year	Operetta	Number at St. Aidan's	Number Elsewhere	Tour Locations
1932	TRIAL BY JURY	2	1	Presentation Church, Cheltenham
1933	HMS PINAFORE	2	0	
1934	YEOMEN OF THE GUARD	3	2	Epiphany-Sherwood Church, Phila. Stewart Jr. High School, Norristown
1935	PIRATES OF PENZANCE	4	2	Needlework Guild, Cheltenham Radio Broadcast, Station WIBG
1936	PATIENCE	3	4	Radio Broadcast, Station WIBG St. Ambrose Church, Kensington Woman's Club, Germantown Christ Church, 6th & Venango Sts.
1937	IOLANTHE	3	2	St. Ambrose Church, Kensington Needlework Guild, Cheltenham
1938	MIKADO	4	2	Christ Church & St. Michael's, Germantown Needlework Guild, Cheltenham
1939	HMS PINAFORE	4	1	Needlework Guild, Cheltenham
1940	YEOMEN OF THE GUARD	4	1	Benefit British War Relief, Lawndale
1941	GONDOLIERS	4	0	
1942	TRIAL BY JURY PIRATES OF PENZANCE	4	0	

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Twenty Years of Gilbert & Sullivan Performances (continued)

1943	PATIENCE	4	0	
1944	IOLANTHE	4	1	Trinity Reformed Church, Phila.
1945	MIKADO	5	3	St. Mark's Church, Frankford Trinity Reformed Church, Phila. Oak Lane Methodist Church
1946	COX AND BOX HMS PINAFORE	5	2	St. Mark's Church, Frankford Oak Lane Methodist Church
1947	YEOMEN OF THE GUARD	5	3	Abington Presbyterian Church St. Mark's Church, Frankford Oak Lane Methodist Church
1948	GONDOLIERS	5	2	St. Mark's Church, Frankford Oak Lane Methodist Church
1949	COX AND BOX PIRATES OF PENZANCE	5	2	St. Mark's Church, Frankford Oak Lane Methodist Church
1950	PATIENCE	5	4	Presbyterian Church, Holmesburg Zion Church, Logan St. Mark's Church, Frankford Women's Club, Southampton
1951	MIKADO	5	4	Zion Church, Logan Oak Lane Methodist Church Women's Club, Southampton High School, Collingswood, N. J.
		80	36	

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ST. AIDAN'S THEME SONG

Words (in part) by SIR WILLIAM S. GILBERT

Music by SIR ARTHUR S. SULLIVAN

Hail, Poetry! Thou Heav'n-born maid!
St. Aidan's Chorus seeks thine aid.

Hail, flowing fount of sentiment!

All hail! All hail! divine emollient!

—PIRATES OF PENZANCE

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